

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 5 September 2024

Report of the Director of Children's Social Care

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Brief Summary

This report presents the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan for 2024-25.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to recommend that Full Council approves the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25, as set out at Appendix 'B', in accordance with the county council's constitution.

Detail

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. It is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how the youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 addresses the functions within the service, and includes how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce re-offending.



The abridged version of the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan is set out at Appendix 'A'. The full version of the Plan is set out at Appendix 'B'.

The Child and Youth Justice Service's vision is aligned to Lancashire County Council's shared vision for Education and Children's services, 'Children, young people and their families are safe, healthy and achieve their full potential'. The Child and Youth Justice Service contributed to and are included within the Front Door, Assessment and Adolescent Services plan and mission statement.

In consultation with the Youth Justice Management Board, Child and Youth Justice Service staff, children, families and volunteers, the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Service developed its Vision, Mission and Values statement, which is underpinned by the core service principles of child first, trauma informed and restorative approaches. A child version of the Vision, Mission and Values statement has been co-produced with children and families.

Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Service's primary focus for 2024-25 is to continue to improve, develop and embed new and innovative practice with children, their families and victims of crime, in line with the service principles of child first, trauma informed and restorative approaches. The service's key aspirations for 2024-25 include:

- Embedding the new Youth Justice Board standardised prevention and diversion assessment tool.
- Review and embed learning and developments following the Joint Targeted Area Inspection on serious youth violence, and the joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention.
- Continue to progress toward becoming a recognised Restorative Justice council restorative organisation.
- To strengthen the strategic and operational links with Lancashire educational and SEND services to ensure children open to the Child and Youth Justice Service are receiving the best educational opportunities.
- To ensure the effective completion of the Turnaround programme with clear sustainability planning.
- To ensure consistency in the health offer, following on from the service health review and the recommendations of the peer review.
- To improve provision for children transferred to Local Authority Accommodation via the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- To improve practice across all key performance indicators, with specific focus in 2024-25 around those children who re-offend.

Lancashire's Youth Justice Management Board's key strength remains the commitment of partners in the continued dedication to the delivery of services to the local communities of Lancashire. Youth Justice Management Board meetings are held on a regular basis, to ensure effective governance of youth justice services, partnership developments and monitoring of the delivery of the Child and Youth Justice Plan. The standards for children in the youth justice system are monitored via the Youth Justice Management Board and Child and Youth Justice Service Operational Leads. The Youth Justice Management Board is presented with



performance data on a regular basis, which has assisted in monitoring service provision.

Youth Justice Management Board partners, Child and Youth Justice Service staff and volunteers have agreed and contributed to the development of the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25. Feedback from children and parents has been gathered to identify service improvements, which are addressed within the plan. All the county council's partners, Child and Youth Justice Service staff and volunteers should be commended for their ongoing commitment to providing outstanding youth justice services.

Appendices

Appendices 'A' and 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification, they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 – abridged version
Appendix 'B'	Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 – full version

Consultations

The Youth Justice Partnership has been involved in the development of the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 and it has been shared at Lancashire's Youth Justice Management Board.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

The Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and is required by law (Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000) to be agreed by Full Council. Usually this will occur prior to June and next year's plan will be scheduled to come through to Full Council earlier in the year.

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan and there is clear government guidance on the requirements for engagement in addition to the structure and content of the plan which has been reviewed and complied as part of the co-production with partners of the plan. Producing the plan is a duty of the local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to set out how youth justice services in the area are to be provided, funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.



Financial

The financial picture is shared with each Youth Justice Management Board.

Risk management

Following the proposed Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 enables the partnership to evidence a child first approach, support young people on the edge or involved in criminality, and those involved in the criminal justice system, and to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Equality and Cohesion

The Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 will have a particular impact on children and young people from the age protected characteristic group and will also impact those with other protected characteristics who are known to the Service. The impact should be a positive impact. The Plan refers both to work on improving participation and specific training being rolled out to support those with autism (disability protected characteristic), which are of particular relevance to the advancing equality of opportunity general aim of the Equality Act 2010's Public Sector Equality Duty.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		

